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OTTAWA • MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008 metronews.ca

**Celebrity Buzz**

**Barker files lawsuit in plane crash**

pg 14



## Child poverty pledge behind by billions

**COALITION** Ontario will have to spend at least \$6 billion over the next five years to make a dent in the province's "stubbornly high" child poverty rate of almost 12 per cent, advocates say.

That's comparable to what Quebec has spent since 2003 to achieve its record of cutting child poverty in half in the past decade, said Jacquie Maund, Ontario co-ordinator of Campaign 2000, a national coalition of more than 120 organizations committed to ending child poverty in Canada.

The weekend marked the 19th anniversary of Ottawa's pledge to end child poverty by 2000. But Ontario's child poverty rate of 11.8 per cent in 2006 has barely budged since that federal promise, Maund said. It means 324,000 Ontario children — almost one in nine — are living in poverty.

The money is needed to invest in good jobs; higher social assistance rates; low-cost child care; affordable housing; and better access to post-secondary education and training, says the coalition's 2008 report card.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Going Green pg 7**

## Economy a monster, says Suzuki



**Workology pg 9**

Tree rings tell their tales

**Entertainment pg 12**

Pink energizes AMA in L.A.

## CFL Calgary's cup



Calgary Stampeders' Dwight Anderson drinks from the Grey Cup after defeating the Montreal Alouettes 22-14 during the CFL's 96th Grey Cup final last night in Montreal. Story, page 8

## Countries vow to fix global crisis

Leaders convinced economy can be mended in 18 months

**Leaders of economies in Asia and the Americas pledged quick and decisive action yesterday to prevent a severe global economic downturn.**

With recession gripping parts of the world and financial markets in chaos, leaders at the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) said the slowdown is "one of the most serious economic challenges we have ever faced."

They said free trade and higher government spending were key to resolving the crisis and supported a push to revive stalled global trade talks by seeking agreements on contentious farming and manufactured goods.

The leaders promised to "take all necessary economic and financial measures to resolve this crisis."

"We are convinced that we can overcome this crisis in a period of 18 months," the leaders said at the summit.

The declaration to end the two-day summit in Lima, Peru echoed measures called for by the Group of 20 major economies in Washington a week earlier, and widened the support for drastic action to stimulate lending and spending.

APEC members account

### Funding offer

- Japan reiterated an offer of \$100 billion in funding for the IMF, but its APEC peers did not follow the example.

for more than half of the world's economic output and include Canada, the United States, China, Japan, and Indonesia, for example. Nine of the countries belong to the G-20.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper vowed to use fiscal stimulus if needed, saying any stimulus package must be effective and avoid long-term budget deficits.

The leaders pledged at the summit to work together to ease the turmoil, agreed not to adopt new trade barriers for a year and called for better regulation of the financial industry.

They also supported overhauls of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank at a time when more countries need emergency bailouts to avert economic disaster.

REUTERS

**ShareYourViews**

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## Flaherty concedes 'technical' recession looming

**ECONOMY** Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday that the global financial crisis may have pushed Canada's economy into recession — the first time the Conservative government has conceded that possibility.

"We may well be in a technical recession in the last quarter of this year and the first quarter of

next year," Flaherty told CTV television.

"It's quite possible that Canada will be below the line slightly in both of those quarters, which technically would be a recession," he said.

Flaherty's remarks followed a speech by Bank of Canada Gov. Mark Carney last week in which he said

the risk of recession was growing. Economists define recession as two consecutive quarters of contraction.

The central bank is likely to cut interest rates again to keep Canada's export-reliant economy afloat in the face of a global recession and flagging consumer demand in the United States,

Canada's main trading partner, Carney said.

Flaherty is due to present updated fiscal and economic projections Thursday.

In the CTV interview, the minister said the budget would stay balanced in the current fiscal year ending in March but a deficit was not out of the question beyond that.

Flaherty also repeated any fresh economic stimulus would not come in his budget update Thursday, saying he would consider such a package for next year's budget plan.

"We're not going to artificially balance the budget to avoid having additional stimulus," Flaherty said.

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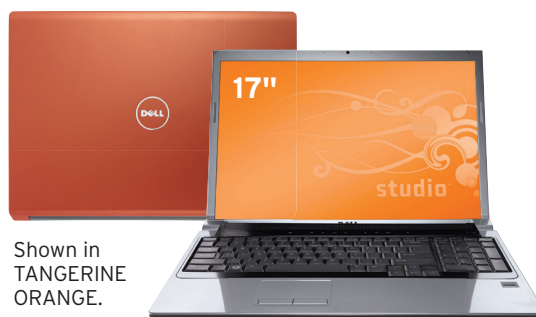
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**Mayor's Christmas party will feature visits from Santa, 67s**

The Mayor's Eighth Annual Christmas Celebration on Dec. 6 will feature Santa Claus, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Aberdeen Pavilion and a skate with members of the Ottawa 67s at the Civic Centre, from 6 to 7 p.m. **OTTAWA.CA**

# Ottawa



## Firefighter's bravery

An Ottawa firefighter received the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery at a Queen's Park ceremony on the weekend. In February 2007, Lieut. John Chatterton ensured his crew had jumped to safety from a blaze at Forward Avenue before escaping himself. Chatterton suffered second-degree burns.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

## Listeriosis feared in city jail

TRACEY TONG  
tracy.tong@metronews.ca



**Hundreds of inmates at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre may have come in contact with listeriosis bacteria this month, although as of yesterday no inmates were believed to be affected.**

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services announced over the weekend that the city correctional facility is one of seven provincial jails that may have been exposed after the operator of

a ministry-owned food-production facility found three samples of food that had tested positive for the bacteria.

As of yesterday, there had been no concerns put forward at the local jail.

"As a result of the positive test, there was an order to immediately cease production and distribution of the food from the facility," ministry spokesman Stuart McGetrick said yesterday.

Eurest Dining Services was also ordered to implement a plan to sanitize the plant and equipment.

### Serious consequences

• Last summer, 20 deaths across the country were linked to an outbreak of listeria.

About 568 (515 male and 53 female) inmates — the majority of which are awaiting trial or sentencing — could potentially have been exposed in Ottawa.

"Based on the length of time it takes to distribute the food to the institutions, we estimate that the food produced at the same time as the samples would have been consumed be-

• Children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems are susceptible.

tween November 13 and 16," said McGetrick.

A supervisor with the Ottawa corrections facility said he couldn't comment and referred Metro to a ministry spokesman in Toronto.

Because "normal healthy people" would "show symptoms in one to three days," no illnesses are now expected to be reported.

## Families fretting as childcare spots cut

**BUDGET** Hundreds of low-income parents are worried the City of Ottawa might cut 700 subsidized daycare spaces to trim the budget by \$5 million.

City staff made the recommendation as part of an effort to reduce spending by \$35 million, leaving some families to wonder what the impact will be for them.

"When they are thinking about cutting all these subsidy spots, it's basically saying we are for childhood poverty," said Kim Howe, a single mother of four who nearly faced poverty when her husband left three years ago.

"Even if you have just two children, pretty much your entire salary is being spent on childcare. For me, it would have been a choice of do I feed my kids or do I pay for (this)?"

Instead, Howe applied for a municipal childcare subsidy and returned to full-time work as a regis-

**"For me, it would have been a choice of, do I feed my kids or do I pay for (this)?"**

Kim Howe

tered nurse.

"I would be on welfare and my children, they work really hard in school, and I think a lot of that is because they see their mother working really hard," she said.

Ottawa has about 7,500 subsidized spaces. The Ontario government used to cover 80 per cent of the cost, but its share has dropped to 72 per cent, said Aaron Burry, Ottawa's community services manager.

"We are simply not going to be in a position to be able to fund and sustain this solely on property tax investments," Burry said. "We need them from other levels of government."

CTVOTTAWA.CA

## Giving twice with fair trade holiday gifts

TRACEY TONG  
tracy.tong@metronews.ca



With the economic downturn perhaps reminding them of others' struggles, many Ottawans are looking for Christmas gifts that can do double duty this year.

And that's turned some conscientious consumers on to fair trade goods. Besides stuffing loved ones' stockings with exotic items, fair trade purchases also support delicate economies in impoverished countries.

"People are becoming more conscious about where to spend their dollar," said Monica Scheifele, co-ordinator of the Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade sale. "When you buy fair trade, you're not only getting the item, but helping someone in a developing country at the same time."

Thousands of Ottawans are expected to attend Ottawa Mennonite Church this season to buy 'fair trade' goods from over 35 countries, including Bangladesh, Chile, Mexico and Kenya. Fair trade goods have become increasingly popular in Ottawa, said Anna Luksic, an



Ottawa resident Megan Harding, left, her daughter, Roberta, seven months, and Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade sale co-ordinator Monica Scheifele check out some ornaments at the sale. In difficult economic times, many city residents are looking for gifts that support delicate economies.

event spokeswoman. "People are not just interested in buying gifts, but where they came from."

Luksic enjoys giving "living gifts" that provide a family in need with necessities. "As my family gets older, we don't need as much stuff," she said. "Giving a living gift is more meaningful and serves a few purposes."

Those new to fair trade often think of coffee and

chocolate, but goods run the gamut: nativity scenes, ornaments, journals, pottery, masks, soap, musical instruments, jewelry, toys, and even purses made from recycled pop cans.

Megan Harding likes knowing that people are getting compensated for their work. "It's important to support them any way we can," she said.

A young mother, Harding believes having items

from around the world in a home teaches children about social issues and geography.

Although items often cost more, Scheifele said it's worth the extra money, even in hard times.

"The fact that it benefits someone else matters more than having to pay more," she said. "We have to remember that the economy effects developing countries, too."

### News in brief

**DAMAGES** A fire gutted one of six units at an Overbrook apartment yesterday. At 2:29 p.m., Ottawa firefighters were called to the upstairs end unit at 363 Blake Blvd. The fire was out within an hour. Although the tenants were home at the time, there were no injuries, paramedics said. Firefighters estimated the damage from the fire at \$25,000 to the structure and \$10,000 to the contents. Most of the damage was to the kitchen and living room areas. **METRO OTTAWA**

**COLLISION** A 23-year-old woman died of massive head injuries on the weekend after being struck by an SUV in Gatineau on Friday night. The woman was walking across Alexandre-Taché Boulevard, near the Université du Québec en Outaouais, and was in the middle of the road when she was hit. **GATINEAU POLICE**

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These results are not official.



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A teenage Nepali boy many believe is an incarnation of Lord Buddha went missing Friday after blessing thousands of supporters, police said on Saturday. This is the third time Ram Bahadur Bamjon, 17, has disappeared since his first appearance three years ago. **REUTERS**

# Canada/World

## Breakthrough for B.C. cancer research team

KRISTEN THOMPSON  
Metro Canada

**MEDICINE** A team of scientists at the B.C. Cancer Agency in Vancouver have made a milestone discovery in the fight to end breast cancer, the agency announced yesterday.

The findings, which were published this week in the medical journal *Nature Medicine*, will allow scientists to better study breast stem cells, likely the cause of breast cancers.

"We've devised a way to detect and see those stem cells in breasts," said Peter Eirew, lead author of the study.

"Up until now we haven't been able to set them apart from the other cells."



B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell, centre, federal sports minister Gary Lunn, left, and Vancouver Organizing Committee CEO John Furlong hold the torch used in the Calgary 1988 Olympics in front of a map showing the 2010 Olympic Flame route.

## Torch to touch most of Canada

**OLYMPIC** The torch relay for the 2010 Winter Olympics will cover 45,000 km and pass through 266 British Columbia communities as it crosses Canada.

The relay will be the longest domestic torch run in Olympic history and will also include 115 Aboriginal

communities across Canada, organizers said. The Olympic Flame, which will be lit in Greece, will begin its cross-Canada tour Oct. 30, 2009, and take the flame to within a one-hour drive of 90 per cent of the Canadian population.

METRO CANADA

## Violence against Afghan kids rising: UN

**Violations of children's rights are increasing in Afghanistan with more attacks against schools, more children killed and more evidence of child sexual abuse, the United Nations said yesterday.**

The report was conducted using a combination of

data from agencies working across Afghanistan and anecdotal reports or allegations of violations against children.

The report, produced by UNICEF for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, mentioned the case of a child, aged around 12, who

was used as a suicide bomber by the Taliban on May 16, 2008.

UNICEF also said western military operations were killing more children, and pointed to an air strike in July in which 30 of the 47 civilians killed were children. **REUTERS**

## Business

### Free-trade agreement signed

**Canada and Colombia signed a free-trade agreement Friday, hoping to boost investment and trade flows at a time of global economic instability.**

The deal, which must still be ratified by lawmakers in both countries, will eliminate tariffs on 98 per cent of Canadian exports to Colombia either immediately or within 10 years.

In the next three to seven years, tariffs on most Colombian exports to Canada would also be cut.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Colombian President Alvaro Uribe said it sent an anti-protectionism message amid increased trade barriers amid economic turmoil. **REUTERS**

### In brief

**ECONOMY** Saudi Arabia slashed interest rates to three per cent, and the United Arab Emirates intervened in a property merger and brought it under a state-owned bank yesterday.

**BAILOUT** Britain plans to inject up to 20 billion pounds in the form of tax cuts and extra public spending to stave off a recession. **REUTERS**

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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Savvy shopping tips

Some simple rules can make the holidays less daunting

## HineSight

Anne Hines



Thirty-one days until Christmas. Once again I find myself asking, "If the holidays are about home and family, why am I always alone in a mall?"

I could buy gifts online. But I always feel this should be dubbed, "Internet shopping. When you care enough to send the best. But not to actually go out and get it yourself."

To make your gift buying easier, here is The HineSight Guide to Savvy Seasonal Shopping.

1. Before scouring the stores for that one perfect

unforgettable present, follow three steps. Pause. Think of all the unforgettable gifts you've given or received in previous years. If you can't remember more than two, just buy everyone socks.

2. Forget gift cards. My daughter, Jade, says, "Gift cards; they're like cash. Only worse."

I still have cards from places like Heidi's House of Hostas and Sausage World. And convenience-wise, you may still have to go from store to store to get them. Even cash has to be procured and shoved in an envelope. If we really wanted convenience, there's an obvious solution. Direct deposit from

your account to your loved ones'.

3. Convert to Buddhism. Really. Right now. Buddhists are joyous, peaceful people so you know they don't have to go into a single mall in December.

Any religion that doesn't require gifts this time of year will do. Saying, "I'm sorry. I'm a disciple of the Goddess Habukku," should get you out of that Secret Santa draw no problem.

4. Make shopping an extreme sport. My brother, Bruce, believes there is no life event so onerous that it can't be turned into a competition. Bruce would start his Christmas shopping at 4 p.m. on Dec. 24. If the gift

he gave you came in a Shoppers Drug Mart bag, you knew he didn't make it to your present before the mall closed at six.

5. Never give someone a poinsettia. Poinsettias should be genetically engineered to die on Dec. 31. They're the Survivor contestants of the plant world. I can starve them, ignore them, stick them in the basement and they still hang on for months, proclaiming, "Isn't this fun? I'm all about Christmas." By April I'm tossing them into the compost bin and I feel like I've killed Santa Claus.

These few simple rules can make the holidays less daunting. And we need that.

Because it's only 395 days until next Christmas.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



MICHAEL DE ADLER

## Letters

Joseph Tortorelli, OTTAWA

Re: Making use of that extra space (Nov. 20)

Do you not consider it somewhat irresponsible to notify Ottawa homeowners that they can make extra money by illegally renting out their driveways and backyards as parking spots?

I realize the columnist was quick to point out that this practice is prohibited. Nevertheless, informing readers that this practice is illegal does not compensate for the fact that you are essentially promoting it.

Moreover, the article goes on to quote a city by-law enforcement representative who, in effect, gave readers the go-ahead by declaring that the city is "not likely to get involved."

I would advise the City of Ottawa that if it decides to neglect actively enforcing its own bylaws, it should at least not advertise this fact.

Parking anywhere and everywhere is an unsightly and unsafe practice, especially when neighbours allow people to snake their cars into tight backyard spaces just to earn extra cash.

Further to your article, I'd like to notify your readers that downtown neighbourhoods are not daytime parking lots for suburbanites.

Sarah Sonne, VANIER

I am a 25-year-old Canadian woman and I am writing to commend the Conservative party for passing Resolution P 207 (protecting pregnant women) at its recent policy convention.

Passing legislation that recognizes the injury or death of an unborn child during an attack on a pregnant woman is something that will secure my vote for, and trust in, the Conservative party.

Thank you for listening to my voice, and the voice of many other young women.

## METRO Ottawa

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## Views

# Healthy transit starts with scrutiny

## InTransit

John Holmes



I grew up in the U.K. Across the pond public transport isn't just poor, it's often mind-bogglingly, depressingly awful. Sure, the London Underground is a comparatively efficient way to travel. But head to the provincial cities — places of similar size and population to Ottawa — and the nightmares begin.

In Bristol, I'd pay the equivalent of \$5 for a 15-minute ride home. There was only one bus after 10 p.m. and, on occasion, it ran 45 minutes late, usual-

ly when it was raining. In Leeds, I once spent half an hour locked in a disabled bus as an on-board siren sounded: "This bus is under attack, please call the emergency services immediately!" It was just three weeks after 9/11. However, the anticipated attack never came.

In both cities, botched privatization led not to thriving competition between rival companies, but corporate monopolies and higher prices. Abroad, Canada has a reputation as a very functional country. When I arrived in Ottawa, I expected a more functional transit system.

First impressions did not disappoint. There was the luxury of a bus downtown directly from the airport. Even getting a bus pass — in Britain, a particularly bemusing process

— was easy. I had my picture taken at city hall. I wrote down my ID number. I slotted both cards into a new plastic pouch and I was away.

Despite these positive experiences, I'm under no illusions many flaws in Ottawa's transit system must be explored. But since arriving here, I've learned attitudes to public transport are completely different.

In the U.K., people complain about late buses, but don't really have a public forum to express frustrations. Here, because transit systems are publicly owned, people rightly feel they should have a say in how they are run. Transit issues are debated with intelligence, vigour and — most significantly — in the public sphere. CBC's Ottawa Morning features

regular segments on transit; Metro runs a weekly column. Policy decisions come under intense scrutiny.

Coun. Clive Doucet's campaign to run light rail down Carling Avenue is a great example. Though defeated, the plan created excitement and energized debate. And with Ottawa's master transportation plan set to cost taxpayers \$7.2 billion, transport needs more scrutiny than ever before.

Canadians should be proud that in their cities, transit issues stir up healthy debate. Then again, getting decision-makers to listen is an entirely different matter.

John Holmes is a writer for various publications in Canada and the U.K. He's never had a driver's licence, and has relied on public transit for all of his adult life.



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TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Going Green

## Hybrids produce less CO<sub>2</sub>

Looking for a new car? A hybrid car produces two tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over 20,000 kilometres driven, a gasoline sedan produces four tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, and an SUV produces six tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, according to Greenology: How To Live Well, Be Green And Make A Difference by Tanya Ha.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONews.CA

# A behemoth that won't stop growing

The economy is a monster that threatens nature's services that keep the planet habitable

## ScienceMatters

**David Suzuki & Dr. Faisal Moola**



Have you noticed that we describe the market and economy as if they were living entities? The market is showing signs of stress. The economy is healthy. The economy is on life support.

Sometimes, we act as if the economy is larger than life. In the past, people trembled in fear of dragons,

demons, gods and monsters, sacrificing anything — virgins, money, newborn babies — to appease them. We know now that those fears were superstitious imaginings, but we have replaced them with a new behemoth: The economy.

Even stranger, economists believe this behemoth can grow forever. Indeed, the measure of how well a government or corporation is doing is its record of economic growth. But our home — the biosphere, or zone of air, water, and land where all life exists — is finite and fixed. It can't grow. And nothing within such a world can grow indefinitely. In focusing on constant growth, we fail to ask the important questions. What

is an economy for? Am I happier with all this stuff? How much is enough?

A timely new book by York University environmental economist Peter Victor, *Managing Without Growth: Slower by Design, Not Disaster*, addresses the absurdity of an economic system based on endless growth. Victor also shows that the concept of growth as an indispensable feature of economics is a recent phenomenon.

The economy is not a force of nature, some kind of immutable, infallible entity. We created it, and when cracks appear, it makes no sense to simply shovel on more money to keep it going. Because it's a human invention, an econo-

my is something we should be able to fix — but if we can't, we should toss it out and replace it with something better.

This current economic crisis provides an opportunity to re-examine our priorities. For decades, scientists and environmentalists have been alarmed at global environmental degradation.

For the first time in four billion years of life on Earth, one species has become so powerful and plentiful that it is altering the physical, chemical, and biological features of the planet on a geological scale. And so we have to ask, "What is the collective impact of everyone in the world?" We've never had to do that before, and it's difficult. Even when

we do contemplate our global effects, we have no mechanism to respond as one species to the crises.

So all the things an intact ecosystem does to keep the planet vibrant and healthy for animals like us are simply ignored in our economy. No wonder futurist Hazel Henderson describes conventional economics as "a form of brain damage."

Nature's services keep the planet habitable for animals like us and must become an integral component of a new economic structure. We must get off this suicidal focus on endless, mindless growth.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at [www.david.suzuki.org](http://www.david.suzuki.org).

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.



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Sports



### O'Neal's knee a cause for concern

Jermaine O'Neal left the Raptors' 118-103 loss to the Celtics yesterday. The centre had started despite having strained his surgically repaired left knee against New Jersey on Friday. Against the Nets, O'Neal hurt his knee when he was pulled down in the fourth quarter by Sean Williams. There was no structural damage, but O'Neal did not practice Saturday. "It just didn't have any stability, it was becoming a little too painful," said O'Neal yesterday. "The big picture for us is in the long term and we've got two days before the next game."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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# Calgary puts its Stamp on it

96TH GREY CUP

Stamps 22 Alouettes 14



You've been there before, surely. You wanted a job or a position badly — desperately — but you were not-so-nicely snubbed. And so, you dearly wanted to make the folks who rejected you regret their decision.

Well, Chris Jones was able to turn such a desire into reality in a tangible way last night. A defensive coach with Montreal the past seven years, Jones was unceremoniously discarded by the Alouettes before this season after he had applied to the club for

the then-vacant position of head coach.

Last night, Jones got sweet revenge — in the form of a Grey Cup championship. Jones is the defensive co-ordinator of the Calgary Stampeders, and it was primarily his unit that was responsible for a 22-14 triumph over those Alouettes in the 96th edition of the CFL's showcase event.

The game wasn't especially entertaining — unless you're turned on by field goals and a dearth of touchdowns — but the Stamps could care less. For them, this fifth championship in their history was bone-chilling.

Calgary quarterback Henry Burris passed for 328 yards and rushed for 79 and was chosen the game's MVP. Calgary kicker Sandro DeAngelis was the game's top Canadian



Stampeders' kicker Sandro DeAngelis celebrates one of his five field goals in last night's Grey Cup victory in Montreal.

after connecting on five of five field-goal attempts, including a 50-yarder late in the game to cement the victory. But it was the Calgary defence that particularly prevailed last night.

Using a brilliant game plan that stymied Montreal quarterback Anthony Calvillo, the CFL's premier player this season, the Stamps knocked

down a staggering four passes, intercepted two and limited the Als to only one touchdown — and a measly single point in the second half.

"Chris Jones and his staff did an excellent job teaching a lot of young players to play defence," Calgary's rookie head coach, John Hufnagel, told TSN after the game.

"They grew and matured

as the season progressed." Calvillo, who has only one Grey Cup ring despite six appearances in the final in a nine-year span, clearly was flustered by Jones' strategy.

"We made big second-half adjustments," Stamps defensive lineman Mike Labinjo told TSN. "And we rattled Calvillo."

The Stamps trailed 13-10 at halftime, but Labinjo insisted they weren't bothered by the partisanship at Montreal's Olympic Stadium, which was occupied by 66,308 spectators — the second-largest crowd in Cup history.

"We faced plenty of adversity all year," Burris said, "and we knew we could come into Montreal and get through this kind of adversity, too."

Burris was able to abort suggestions from skeptics who felt he couldn't win a

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

championship game.

"If you keep knocking on the door," Hufnagel said, "the door will open for you and it opened wide for Henry tonight."

The Stamps in general felt they were treated poorly when they were shut out at the 2008 CFL awards ceremonies last week. Calvillo got the nod over Burris as the CFL's outstanding player while DeAngelis lost out to the Toronto Argonauts' Dominique Dorsey as the league's best special-teams performer.


"They can take awards from us," Calgary receiver Nik Lewis said, "but they can't take the Grey Cup from us now."

PT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
11/24/08	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team "Freen's Court"	The Agenda With Steve Paikin	Midsomer Murders	In Korea with Norm Christie	Agenda-Paikin			
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Prison Break "Selfless"	Heroes (HDTV) (N)	My Own Worst Enemy	News (N)		
	-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	La Petite vie	L'Auberge du chien noir (SC)	Hauts	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)	La Zone		
	209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Sarah Connor Chronicles	Two/Half Men	Samantha Who	News		
	196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Dancing With the Stars	Corner Gas (N)	CSI: Miami "Power Trip"	News (N)		
	208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragon's Den (N)	The Border (HDTV) (N)	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Chuck (HDTV) (N)	Heroes (HDTV) (N)	My Own Worst Enemy	News (N)		
	117	713	10	TVA	Les Auditions de Star Acadé	Annie et ses hommes (N) (SC)	Dr. House "Le Petit coin" (SC)	TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque			
	-	-	11	QS	C't'une joke	Loft Story	CSI: NY (SC)	Bob Gratton	Les Voisines	Cent dix pour cent (SC)	Loft Story	
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama	Le Monde des couleurs	Les Destinées sentimentales ★★ (2000, Drame) Emmanuelle Béart.					
	-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV)	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	Friends	Hist Language	
	216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case	News (N)	News (N)	Two/Half Men	Friends	News (N)		
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU	Chuck (HDTV) (N)	Celebrity Fit Club	Curb-Enthsm	Less-Kind	News (N)		
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)	Vivre II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	How I Met	Worst Week	(10:02) Boston Legal	News (N)	
	-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Dancing With the Stars	Samantha Who	(10:02) Boston Legal	News (N)		
	512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions	Heure polit.	L'Heure politique			Revue	Période-quest.	
	651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show	100 Huntley Street	Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee	
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Sarah Connor Chronicles	Prison Break "Selfless"	News (N)		News	
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Whiz Quiz	Antiques Roadshow	The Rape of Europa ★★ (2006, Documentary) (HDTV)			Tavis Smiley	
	205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Dancing With the Stars	Corner Gas (N)	CSI: Miami "Power Trip"	News (N)		
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National	Stolen Babies, Stolen Lives (N)	National		
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				
sports	406	417	27	net	Hockey 2008 ADT Canada Russia Challenge -- OHL vs. Russia. From St. Catharines, Ont.			Sportsnet Connected (Live)	Hockey Central			
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes	Grands reportages Haïti. (SC)	Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal		
family	400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown	NFL Football	Green Bay Packers at New Orleans Saints. (HDTV) (Live)				
	410	403	52	SCR	RaceNight			(9:15) WWE Monday Night Raw			Score Tonight	
cable variety	411	457	56	OLN	(6) The Amazing Race 5	The Academy	Mantracker	Departures	Pilot Guides			
	417	406	59	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	SuperCars	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson	Pinks (HDTV)	
	554	544	48	TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Han, Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	551	542	65	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
	570	580	29	MM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed	Coolio's Rules	Parental Advis.	Revival	Party of Five	
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	Intervention "Ashley"	Intervention (HDTV)	The First 48 (HDTV)			The First 48	
	628	584	32	SPKE	Star Wars-Phantom	Star Wars: Episode II -- Attack of the Clones ★★ (2002, Science Fiction) Ewan McGregor.					CSI: NY	
	521	560	34	TLC	Little People	Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	17 Kids-Count	17 Kids-Count	Little People
	145	761	35	TV5	Toute une histoire	Pharaons pour l'éternité (SC)		Jardins	Partir autre	Expression	Journal TV5	
	616	521	39	SHO	Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane	Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Office
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives	Faerie Queen	Bravonews	Year of Lion	Perreault Dancer		Law & Order	
	520	505	42	DIST	Daily Planet (N)	MythBusters	Dirty Jobs		Canada's Worst Driver		Daily Planet	
	575	583	43	CMT	All About ...	Flashback	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country
	601	562	45	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Newlywed	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Project Runway "Finale Part 1"	Til Debt-Part
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham: Arguing	Daily Show
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Selena ★★ (1997, Biography) Jennifer Lopez, Edward James Olmos.			Family Guy	Family Guy	
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	My First Place	Home to Stay	Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.	House Hunters
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost "Two for the Road"	Star Trek (Part 2 of 2)	Battlestar Galactica		Eureka "I Do Over"		Stargate SG-1	
	581	566	53	MTV	The Hills	After Show	MTV News	Cribs	Super Sweet	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men		What Happen?	Make or Break	Planet Soap	Reality	Final 24
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Pop Life"		Battle 360	Underworld Histories		NCIS "Pop Life"		Crime Stories
	129	773	60	CD	Biographies	Alerte animale		Superscience (HDTV)		Motards hors-la-loi		National Geo
	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote	Prime Minister	May-December	McLeod's Daughters (N)	Tuscany		Mysterious Wy	
	602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	Love It or List It (N)	Confidential	Kim	Save Us-House	
	269	350	70	APTN	Notre Peuple "Le train"	La Cité	Mishkuenita	Le Vent Sombre ★★ (1991, Crime Drama), Fred Ward			Closer-Home	
	621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	TMZ (N)	etalk	Scream Queens		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno	TMZ	
	603	561	95	FN	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover	Good Eats	Ace of Cakes	Kitchen Nightmares	Restaurant	

critics'corner—

Heroes

After reuniting Sylar and Elle, Arthur orders them to find Claire and bring her to him. Matt, Hiro and Ando then team up and follow Daphne to her hometown of Athens, Ga., to discover what she's been hiding. Meanwhile, Nathan and Peter head to Haiti. 9 PM on 9 NBC 3 GTV



**Two and a Half Men**

Jake disappears with the daughter of Charlie's neighbor, forcing Charlie to cover his back in an effort to preserve the peace. Meanwhile, Alan scores a hot date, thanks in part to Charlie's Mercedes. Academy Award nominee Michael Clarke Duncan guest stars. 9 PM on 13 CBS, 6 SHRO

**My Own Worst Enemy**

Edward risks national security to find the identity of his parents' killer. Then Angie prepares for bad news when her father, Archie, visits for the holidays. Meanwhile, Tom and his wife, Mary, rekindle their strained relationship over a bourbon-fueled cooking session. 10 PM on 9 NBC 3 GTV

SCOREBOARD

NFL

WEEK 12

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Baltimore 36 Philadelphia 7

Buffalo 54 Kansas City 31

Chicago 27 St. Louis 3

Dallas 35 San Francisco 22

Houston 16 Cleveland 6

Minnesota 30 Jacksonville 12

New England 48 Miami 28

N.Y. Jets 34 Tennessee 13

Tampa Bay 38 Detroit 20

Oakland 31 Denver 10

Atlanta 45 Carolina 28

Washington 20 Seattle 17

N.Y. Giants 37 Arizona 19

Indianapolis at San Diego

THURSDAY'S RESULT

Pittsburgh 27 Cincinnati 10

TONIGHT'S GAME

Green Bay at New Orleans

NHL

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Nashville 5 Carolina 2

New Jersey 7 Tampa Bay 3



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## University of Windsor opens Centre for English Language Development

Last week, the University of Windsor unveiled its new Centre for English Language and Development. The facility is located in a former Royal Canadian Legion building, which was sold to the university due to declining membership. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

## Soccer in Manitoba

Earlier this month, the University of Manitoba opened a new multi-field soccer complex. The larger playing field in the facility can be subdivided into smaller fields to accommodate different ages and abilities.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Tree rings are great storytellers

## OddJobs

**Diane Peters**



**O**n a recent workday, Colin Laroque went down to the old mines near the Joggins Fossil Cliffs on the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia to check out some pieces of wood with a historian visiting from England.

He took some doweling-shaped samples of the wood, using a hand auger, put them under a microscope and counted the rings

down to a thousandth of a millimetre.

"Trees have many ways of telling us about the past," he says. As a dendrochronologist — a job title that simply breaks down to the words "tree" and "time" — Laroque, 43, knows how to tap into this information.

He'll take the pattern of those tree rings and compare it to other samples he and his students at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., have taken in the area. When he synchs up the patterns, he'll know the year the tree was cut down to make the wood for the mine or dock. And that in turn will tell him whether it was made by the Acadians before 1739, or the British who came later

and took over the mines.

Such detective work is common for Laroque, who is an associate professor and director of the Mount Allison Dendrochronology Laboratory. He and his team of undergraduate and graduate students also help people date the wood in their homes to see if it was built by the Acadians — making it a lot more valuable.

Dendrochronologists do research too — some of it very creative. One of Laroque's students analyzing the heavy metals have gotten into trees from the Sydney Tar Ponds over the years, while another is calculating how global warming will affect trees in the future.

Laroque grew up north of

Saskatoon; a kid who loved the outdoors. He was studying physical geography at the University of Saskatchewan when a professor took him and a class out to look at a glacier. Laroque was not only fascinated by how important water was to his prairie homeland, but by the fact that the trees were the best way to track how the glacier had changed over the years.

He has a master's and PhD at the University of Victoria and then ended up at Mount Allison.

There are only about 20 dendrochronologists in Canada, and most of them work in the old virgin forests of British Columbia or Ontario, where there are trees as old as 900 years.

## The Lowdown

### Job title:

Dendrochronologist

**Salary:** \$45,000 to \$100,000

**Education/training:** Graduate degree in geography under a dendrochronologist

**Best Part of the Job:** "I enjoy being outside. I'm out hunting down trees and camping and I get to see a lot of the country."

**Worst Part of the Job:** "Being in remote Labrador and wearing two bug jackets and trying to keep the bugs out while you're eating a sandwich."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

Ottawa

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How-to courses on blogging are popping up in continuing education programs across Canada. Simon Fraser University will offer a weekend course about blogging. The University of Toronto, Nova Scotia Community College, Centennial College and the University of British Columbia also offer blogging courses. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**Schools offering courses on blogging**



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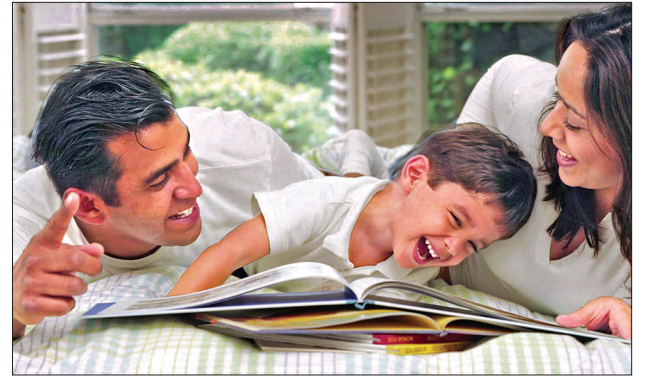
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## Literacy builds word at a time

**EDUCATION** Canada enjoys one of the highest literacy rates in the world, and yet, according to Human Resources and Social Development Canada, at least 40 per cent of Canadian adults do not meet the minimum level required to succeed in the knowledge-based economy.

Literacy — the ability to read and write, and also to understand and use language — takes root in early childhood. Studies have shown that children who are read to by their parents develop stronger language and listening skills, vocabulary and creativity. In addition, toddlers aged two to three who are read to several times a day do significantly better in kindergarten than those who are only read to a few times a week or less, according to ABC Canada Literacy Foundation.

"Literacy is about brain development, education,



One way to build literacy is to make reading a fun activity.

and creativity, but it is also about fun," says Brad Martin, president of the Canadian Publishers' Council (CPC). "Whether being read to by a caregiver, for a school assignment or for leisure, there is a lot of power in each and every book, not to mention important childhood memories of curling up with a parent or grandparent to read a favourite story."

Encouraging literacy at a young age isn't just the re-

sponsibility of children and their family — community support is also important. Libraries, book stores and schools all play important roles in fostering the love of reading. Canadian publishers are also doing their part by supporting numerous literacy initiatives.

In the past five years, members of CPC have donated millions of books and more than \$1.2 million in funding to special literacy initiatives. **NEWS CANADA**

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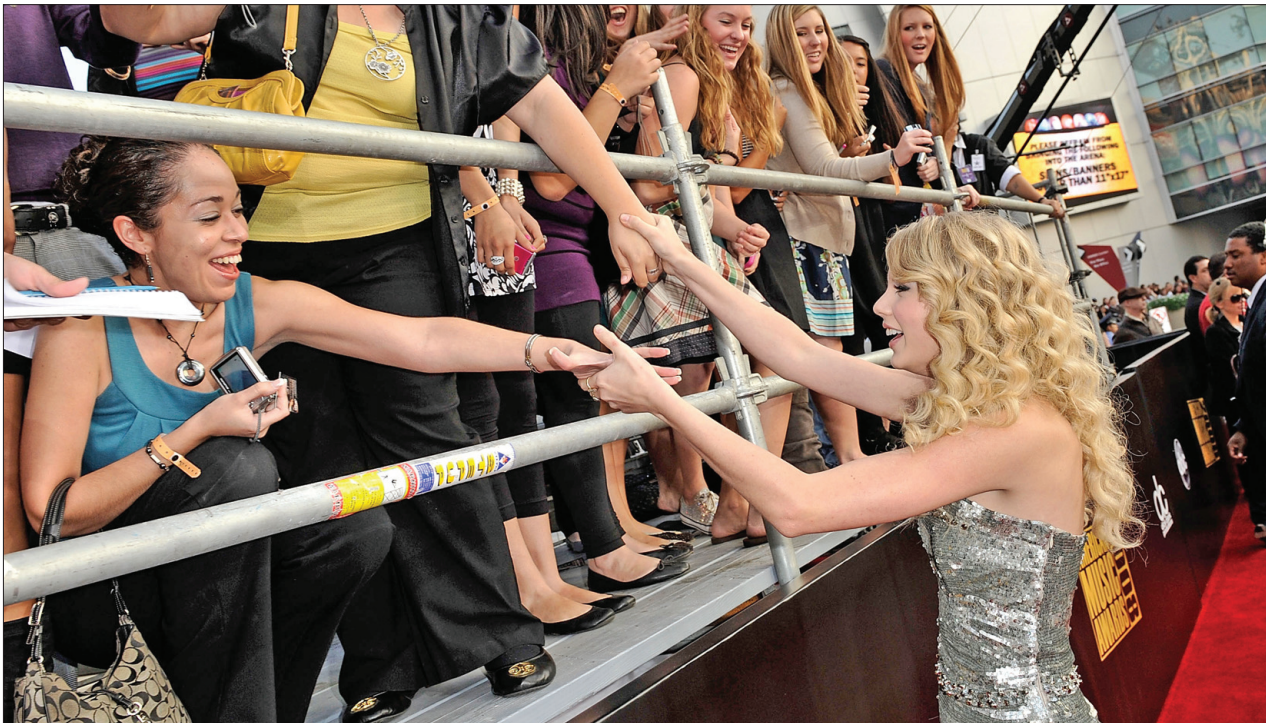
## 12 Ritchie's Rocco gets cameo

Guy Ritchie is reportedly giving his eight-year-old son Rocco a cameo appearance in his next film, *Sherlock Holmes*. **IMDB.COM**



# Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA



Singer Taylor Swift greets fans lined along the red carpet outside the American Music Awards in Los Angeles yesterday.

## Stars come out to shine

**The American Music Awards usually centres on its performances, though a pair of lacklustre medleys opened the program at the Nokia Theatre.**

The not-so-thrilling Christina Aguilera channelled Madonna and the New Kids on the Block channelled an earlier version of themselves during the evening's first two performances, in which both acts sang their latest singles and greatest hits.

But Pink brought a healthy dose of energy to the stage during her performance of *Sober*, which was awkwardly introduced by slurring rocker Scott Weiland.

Late-night comedian Jimmy Kimmel returned for a fifth time as host of the three-hour show, broadcast live on ABC, poking fun at

the celebrity-filled crowd during his opening monologue. Re-

capping the year in music, he cracked: "Christina

Aguilera and T-Pain greeted fans on the red carpet.



### And the big winners are...

- Alicia Keys won favourite pop/rock album for *As I Am*
- Favourite rap/hip-hop album went to Kanye West
- Chris Brown won artist of the year, two other awards
- Brad Paisley won for favourite country artist
- Taylor Swift won for favourite female country act

Aguilera had a baby...Mariah Carey married one."

Musical couple Rihanna and Chris Brown captured the first two trophies Sunday at the American Music Awards.

Rihanna won favourite female soul/R&B artist and Brown

**"Christina Aguilera had a baby ... Mariah Carey married one."**

AMA host Jimmy Kimmel, recapping the year

their thank-you speeches.

Mariah Carey was among the evening's other slated performers, along with Beyonce, Kanye West and the Jonas Brothers.

Miley Cyrus wasn't just slated to

sing, she was to celebrate her "Sweet 16" on the show. Coldplay and Leona Lewis were to make their American Music Award debuts, and Alicia Keys and Sarah McLachlan performed.

Annie Lennox was to receive the Award of Merit, an honour previously bestowed on Michael Jackson, Whit-

ney Houston, Frank Sinatra and James Brown, among others.

There were other awards, too, chosen by on-line voters in 21 categories.

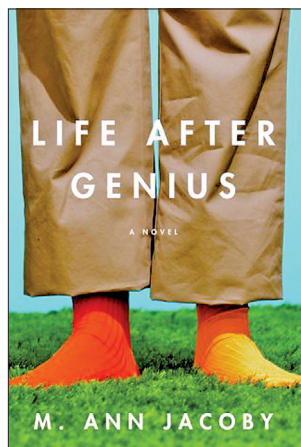
**METRO NEWS SERVICES**





**ABC drops series**

ABC has opted not to order additional episodes of *Pushing Daisies*, *Eli Stone* and *Dirty Sexy Money* for this season. The network isn't commenting. **EW.COM**

entertainment **13****BookPicks****Life After Genius**

**Author:** M. Ann Jacoby  
**Publisher:** Grand Central Publishing  
**Price:** \$27.99 (Hardcover)

Up there with Magnolia quiz kid Donnie Smith and Into The Wild's Chris "Alexander Supertramp" McCandless, you'll find Thomas Mead Fegley. In *Life After Genius*, he's the latest intellect-gone-awry whose youthful academic feats take an unpredictable turn when he's just 18. Already on the cusp of graduating university and proving an over century-old hypothesis, Fegley suddenly leaves school to return to his Illinois home. His decision to sell furniture and work as an embalmer confuses his parents, past acquaintances and everyone who knows the once-upon-a-time prodigy. But by escaping what he's always known, Fegley begins to learn who he really is.

BRIAN COULTON/  
FOR METRO CANADA

**In brief****WEEKEND BOX OFFICE**

Following are the top 10 films:

1. *Twilight*, \$70.6 million
2. *Quantum of Solace*, \$27.4 million
3. *Bolt*, \$27 million
4. *Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa*, \$16 million
5. *Role Models*, \$7.2 million
6. *Changeling*, \$2.6 million
7. *High School Musical 3: Senior Year*, \$2.0 million
8. *Zack and Miri Make a Porno*, \$1.7 million
8. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, \$1.7 million
10. *The Secret Life of Bees*, \$1.3 million

REUTERS

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**Australia feeds culture**

JIM REYNO  
Metro Canada

**It's a great line, maybe even a classic.**

Actor Paul Hogan, starring as the title character in *Crocodile Dundee*, is confronted by a mugger. Dundee's companion tells him to hand over his wallet — the kid's got a knife.

"That's not a knife," Dundee chuckles, and pulls out a bigger Bowie knife. "That's a knife."

The mugger flees and the world laughed along, loving Hogan as the Australian crocodile hunter out of his element in New York City. The year was 1986, and *Crocodile Dundee* was a critical and box-office smash, bringing Australia right along with it. The Outback was in, with a flurry of G'days, a few *Fosters* — and keep that dingo away from the baby.

With the release of director Baz Luhrmann's much-anticipated film *Australia*, interest in the country is sure to swell again.

But there's already an Aussie presence active in our culture. Luhrmann has already made his mark with the films *Moulin Rouge*, *Romeo + Juliet* and *Strictly Ballroom*. His male lead on *Australia* is a fellow countryman Hugh Jackman, best known as Wolverine in the *X-Men* se-



Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman star in the movie *Australia*.

ries.

Jackman isn't the only popular leading man to come from the land Down Under. Russell Crowe, who was born in New Zealand and moved to Australia as a child, won a best-actor Oscar for his performance in 2000's *Gladiator*.

Mel Gibson and Geoffrey Rush are other Australian Oscar winners. And there's Oscar buzz around another Aussie this year — Heath Ledger, who died in January, for his portrayal of the Joker in *The Dark Knight*.

Australian women are also prevalent on the big screen: Cate Blanchett and Naomi Watts are two of the best known; Winnipeg-born Anna Paquin grew up in New Zealand.

The female lead in Luhrmann's film, U.S.-

born, but Australia-raised Nicole Kidman, has had an impressive career, including an Oscar win for her performance in *The Hours* in 2003.

Plus, she makes up one half of what is probably the best-known Australian celebrity couple. Like Crowe, country rocker Keith Urban is a transplanted New Zealander. The two-time Grammy winner married Kidman in June 2006.

Urban-Kidman may be Australia's most famous male-female couple, but there's no doubt about the top sibling couple. Guitarists Malcolm and Angus Young are the hard rock foundation of AC/DC. The legendary band's most recent CD, *Black Ice*, debuted at No. 1 in 29 countries.

**Even TV feels financial chill****IntelleVision**

**NO ONE LOVES YOU WHEN YOU'RE DOWN AND OUT:** For as long as I've been writing this column, CTV's upfront presentation has been the big event of the local TV calendar, an expensive event where the network takes over a marquee Toronto venue to bang the drum for their newly acquired roster of shows and the continuing success of old ones.

Under CTV boss Ivan Fecan, the network's business strategy has been easy to summarize: invest in local product prudently with halfhearted hopes that you'll get a homegrown hit, while throwing lots of money at U.S. producers to get simulcast rights for the primetime hours. It worked well enough for main competitor Global to be obligat-

ed to do much the same thing, but like everything else that's going on in this chilly season of change, it's looking like an artifact from another time.

A front page article in the *National Post's* financial section this past weekend eulogized the Fecan era while the man still occupies his office, after the network's parent company, CTVglobemedia, announced a major round of cutbacks to staff and budgets last week. Fecan's "spend money to make money" philosophy "is now facing grave uncertainty," according to the *Post*, and Fecan delivered an address to employees nationwide on Wednesday "warning of impending layoffs and a freeze on travel and entertainment spending at CTV."

Precise details of what's going on at CTV or its parent company aren't easy to divine, thanks to its status as a private company that doesn't have to publish financial information. So we'll have to watch how precisely it intends to

weather the current economic downturn across a variety of media, but the fate of CTV will be watched closest of all.

What went wrong is easy to figure out when you read news like ABC's cancellation of three of its prime-time shows, all of them once part of CTV's buying spree down south. The Canadian network's website no longer puts *Pushing Daisies*, *Eli Stone* or *Dirty Sexy Money* front and centre — they aren't even on the list of shows linked off CTV's website front page — but they were all trophies brought home by Fecan and Susanne Boyd, his head of creative content, and showcased at recent up-fronts. In this light, CTV has never been the author of its own success, though it's unlikely that it will escape the humbling fate due to media companies, now being accelerated by poor shows and a poorer economy.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television

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**Kurkova deemed sexiest**  
Karolina Kurkova has been deemed World's Sexiest Woman. E! Entertainment Television bestowed the honour on the model. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Celebrity Buzz

# Barker files lawsuit

**LEGAL** Travis Barker has filed a lawsuit blaming the pilots and defective equipment for a plane crash that severely in-

jured the rocker and DJ AM and killed four other people, People.com reports.

The L.A. Superior Court lawsuit, also filed Friday by the mother of Barker's bodyguard, Charles (Che) Still, who died in the crash, alleges the pilots "negligently decided to abort" the takeoff when the Learjet's tires failed in September at an airport in Columbia, S.C.

"The pilots were either poorly trained and/or failed to follow their training," the suit says. "The pilots' decision was a breach of their duty owed to the passengers on-board and was a substantial factor in causing the crash and resultant injuries and deaths."

Pilot Sarah Lemmon, 31, and co-pilot James Bland, 52, were killed in the crash.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Reese not ready for another marriage

**RELATIONSHIPS** Reese Witherspoon thinks it is too soon to think about marrying boyfriend Jake Gyllenhaal, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 32-year-old actress, who has two children with ex-husband Ryan Phillippe, admits divorce has changed her opinions about the institution of marriage.

"Family is all we have in life, but I don't know how I feel about marriage," she said. "Obviously, I'm not far enough out of being married to think about doing it again. You sort of reconstitute your family. You find a family with people who come into your life for a reason."

Witherspoon, who has never revealed the reasons for her divorce, also revealed she always vowed not to "lay blame" on Phillippe for their relationship breakdown.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Maguire's wife is pregnant

**FAMILY** Another gem is on the way for Tobey Maguire and his wife, Jennifer Meyer, People.com reports.

The couple — already parents to Ruby, 2 — are expecting a second child in the spring, the actor's rep Kelly Bush confirms to People.

"I love being a dad!" the three-time Spider-Man star, 33, told People when Ruby was just six months old. He and Meyer, 31, met in 2003 and married in September 2007.



**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Jessica loves new aunt role

**FAMILY** Jessica Simpson is ecstatic about her latest role — aunt to newborn Bronx Mowgli Wentz, People.com reports.

"Bronx is beyond precious. I'm over the moon with joy," the singer said Friday. "Life is a beautiful miracle. Ashlee and Pete are healthy, happy and enjoying every moment."

Singer Ashlee Simpson-Wentz and husband Pete Wentz welcomed their first child on Thursday night in Los Angeles.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Sweetin files for separation

**SPLIT** Former Full House star and new mom Jodie Sweetin is splitting with her husband, People.com reports.

Sweetin, 26, filed papers Wednesday in Orange County, Calif., for legal separation from Cody Herpin, 31, who helped turn around her life after years of methamphetamine addiction.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Penn helps ex Madonna

**RELATIONSHIPS** Madonna is doing her best to get through her split from husband Guy Ritchie, with a little help from ex-husband Sean Penn, People.com reports a source close to the singer as saying.

"It's a sad situation, but she's not heartbroken," says the source, who saw the 50-year-old icon hours before a London court granted the couple a preliminary "quickie divorce" on Friday. "She's handling it well."

Madonna is focusing on her work and her children to keep her mind off the end of her nearly eight-year marriage to Ritchie, says the source. "She's got a very busy life."

Also helping her through

the tough time is her ex-husband. The singer and Penn were spotted having drinks at the Greenwich Hotel in Manhattan on Wednesday night.

"They have a nice rapport," says the source. "There's nothing romantic there. They're just good friends."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

## Williams asks to grieve in peace

**PEOPLE** Actress Michelle Williams has slammed the paparazzi for refusing to let her grieve in peace following the death of her ex-boyfriend Heath Ledger in January, imdb.com reports

In her first indepth interview since the tragedy, the actress tells the upcoming issue of Newsweek magazine she'll never forgive the disrespectful snappers who have made her life a misery in the past year — and she won't forget them.

Williams tells the publication she was particularly disturbed with the efforts some photographers went to just to get a photo of her young daughter Matilda.

"It burns a fire inside of me, the s--- that I've seen people do to get at me or my daughter," she says. "I won't forget it,

and I won't support it. I don't want my daughter growing up feeling spied on or threatened."

And it was one encounter with an over-zealous female paparazzo, which tipped Williams over the edge.

"I said, 'You're better than this. Look at you! You're young, you're abled-bodied, you have a brightness in your eyes. You're above this.' But you know what? She didn't go away," Williams adds.

The intrusion has prompted Williams to seriously think about leaving her home in New York and walking away from her acting career.

"If it gets to the point where I can't situate my life in a way that they stay away more, then I'll drop a match on the thing," she says.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Beyonce/Jay-Z high earners

**PEOPLE** Beyonce Knowles and Jay-Z have been named Hollywood's highest-earning couple, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The married pair topped the list compiled by Forbes magazine after collectively making \$162 million US between June 1, 2007 and June 1, 2008.

Hip-hop star Jay-Z pocketed \$82 million from a 10-year deal with Live Nation, while Beyonce raked in \$80 million from film, fashion and publishing deals.

Actors Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith finished second place in the list, with earnings of \$85 million.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Ivanka signs on for book deal

**CAREER** Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump is on the fast-track to building her own business empire, after signing a deal to publish a new book, imdb.com reports.

The 26-year-old former model, who holds an executive office at the Trump Organization, has signed on with publishers at Simon & Schuster to write a motivational book, reports the New York Post.

"My father always impressed upon me the idea that America is a meritocracy and that you must work for everything you get," she says.

She adds she hopes to share a "positive perspective with the women of my generation."

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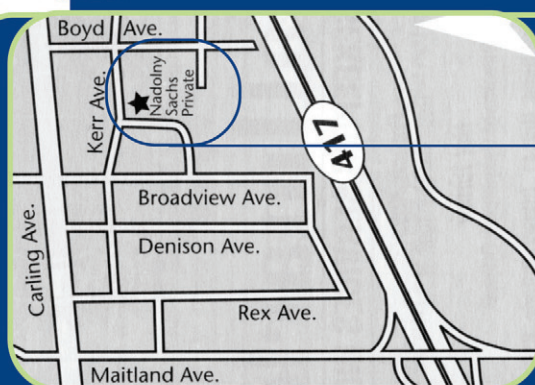
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